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## ABSTRACT

This document is an instructional module package prepared in objective form for use by an instructor familiar with the titrimetric method and the nomographic method of determining free carbon dioxide concentrations of a water sample. Included are objectives, an instructor guide, student handouts, and transparency masters. A video tape is also available from the author. This module considers chemistry and principles of dissolved carbon dioxide, the preparation of standards and reagents, calculation of free carbon dioxide and the nomographic determination of free carbon dioxide. (Author/RH)

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FREE CARBON DIOXIDE  
Training Module 5.245.2.77

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September, 1977

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Module No:                 | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide      |
| Approx. Time:<br>4.0 hours | Submodule Title:<br><br>Topic:<br>Summary |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Determine the pH, temperature, and filtrable residue content of a water sample.
2. Calculate free  $\text{CO}_2$  level by the nomographic method.
3. Determine the free  $\text{CO}_2$  level by the titrimetric method.

**Instructional Aids:**

Transparency CD1 - OCD4- Surface water videotape

**Instructional Approach:**

Lecture, demonstration, discussion, laboratory practice, videotape viewing.

**References:**

1. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 14 edition.
2. Operator's manual for pH meter.

**Class Assignments:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Module No:                 | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide                                     |
| Approx. Time:<br>0.5 hours | Submodule Title:<br><br>Topic:<br>Chemistry of dissolved CO <sub>2</sub> |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant will be able to:

1. Describe how free CO<sub>2</sub> is related to corrosion and water hardness.
2. List the three forms of CO<sub>2</sub> in water.
3. Qualitatively relate the three forms to pH.

**Instructional Aids:**

Transparency CD1- three forms of CO<sub>2</sub> and pH.

**Instructional Approach:**

Lecture/discussion

**References:**

Standard Methods p. 293, 61-63.

**Class Assignments:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Module No.:<br>CD                                    | Topic:<br>Chemistry of dissolved CO <sub>2</sub>   |
| Instructor Notes:                                    | Instructor Outline:  |
| Transparency CD-1<br>Forms of CO <sub>2</sub> and pH | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The gas, carbon dioxide reacts with pure water to form carbonic acid which will lower pH. CO<sub>2</sub> may react with CaO and other metal oxides to form CaCO<sub>3</sub> and other carbonates. Since CaCO<sub>3</sub> is only slightly soluble, the free CO<sub>2</sub> level and pH will determine the amount of hardness which will precipitate and whether a protective CaCO<sub>3</sub> coating will be in water mains.</li><li>2. Forms of CO<sub>2</sub><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <math>\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3 = \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}</math> (Free CO<sub>2</sub>)</li><li>b. <math>\text{HCO}_3^-</math> bicarbonate</li><li>c. <math>\text{CO}_3^{2-}</math> carbonate</li></ol></li><li>3. pH and CO<sub>2</sub><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. low pH, <math>\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3</math></li><li>b. intermediate pH, <math>\text{HCO}_3^-</math></li><li>c. high pH, <math>\text{CO}_3^{2-}</math></li></ol></li></ol> |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Module No:                  | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide     |
| Approx. Time:<br>0.25 hours | Submodule Title:<br><br>Topic:<br>Safety |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Locate the following in the laboratory and demonstrate proper use: emergency shower, fire extinguisher, eye wash, first aid kit.
2. Select and use safety glasses, lab coat or apron and gloves in appropriate situation.
3. Describe hazards involved with the chemicals used in determining CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Instructional Aids:**

Laboratory safety rules handout.

**Instructional Approach:**

Lecture/demonstration

**References:**

Basic laboratory skills module.

**Class Assignments:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Module No:<br>CD  | Topic:<br>Safety  |
| Instructor Notes: | Instructor Outline:   |
|                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Point out to students the location of various safety devices and their use.</li><li>2. Safety glasses should be worn during the preparation of reagents and during titration.</li><li>3. The <math>\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3</math> solutions are basic and may cause chemical burns.</li></ol> |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Module No:               | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide                                 |
| Approx. Time:<br>5 hours | Submodule Title:<br>Topic: Principles of CO <sub>2</sub> measurement |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. List two methods for determining free CO<sub>2</sub>.
2. List data needed for nomographic determination of CO<sub>2</sub>.
3. Describe qualitatively the titrimetric method of CO<sub>2</sub> determination.

**Instructional Aids:**

Surface water analysis videotape.

**Instructional Approach:**

Lecture, discussion, videotape viewing

**References:**

Standard Methods, pp. 293 - 301.

**Class Assignments:**



|   |  |
|---|--|
| Module No:<br>CD  | Topic:<br>Principles of CO <sub>2</sub> measurement  |
| Instructor Notes:<br><br>Surface water analysis /<br>Video tape - middle sec-<br>tion | Instructor Outline:<br><br>1. Show video tape - answer questions<br><br>2. Methods<br>a. nomographic<br>b. titrimetric<br><br>3. Nomographic data<br>a. temperature<br>b. pH<br>c. total filtrable residue<br>d. total alkalinity<br><br>4. Titration:<br>The H <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> is consumed completely and<br>converted to HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> by each mole of NaOH<br>or Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> |

Module No:

Module Title:

Free Carbon Dioxide

Submodule Title:

Approx. Time:

0.5 hours

Topic:

pH measurement

## Instructional Objective:

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Describe the function of the pH meter.
2. Properly standardize the pH meter.
3. Determine the pH of a solution with a pH meter.

## Instructional Aids:

Transparency CD2 - Diagram of pH meter.

## Instructional Approach:

Laboratory practice

## References:

Operator's manual for pH meter used.

## Class Assignments:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Module No:<br>CD                         | Topic:<br>pH measurement  |
| Instructor Notes:                        | Instructor Outline:   |
| Transparency CD-2<br>Diagram of pH meter | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Point out parts of pH meter<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. meter</li><li>b. calibration knob</li><li>c. electrodes</li></ol></li><li>2. Standardize against pH 7 buffer</li><li>3. Measure pH of any water solution</li></ol> |

|                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Module No:                     | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide |
|                                | Submodule Title:                     |
| Approx. Time:<br><br>0.5 hours | Topic:<br><br>Filtrable Residue      |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Determine the concentration of filtrable residue in a water sample.
2. Differentiate between filtrable and non-filtrable residue.

**Instructional Aids:**

Transparency CD3 - filter apparatus

**Instructional Approach:**

Laboratory practice

**References:**

Standard Methods p.92

**Class Assignments:**

Module No:  
CD

Topic:  
Filtrable residue

Instructor Notes:

Instructor Outline:

Transparency CD-3  
Filter apparatus

1. Filtrable residue
  - a. filter sample through fritted glass
  - b. evaporate filtrate to dryness
  - c. weigh residue
  - d.  $\text{mg/l} = \text{mg residue/liters of sample}$
2. Residue:
  - a. filtrable - dissolved
  - b. non-filtrable - suspended

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Module No:                  | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide               |
| Approx. Time:<br>0.25 hours | Submodule Title:<br><br>Topic:<br>Nomograph Method |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Determine the free  $\text{CO}_2$  level of a water sample from pH, residue, temperature and total alkalinity using a nomograph.
2. Determine the various types of alkalinity from pH, residue, temperature and total alkalinity.

**Instructional Aids:**

Transparency CD4- Free  $\text{CO}_2$  Nomograph

**Instructional Approach:**

Lecture/discussion.

**References:**

Standard Methods p. 294-298.

**Class Assignments:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Module No:<br>CD   | Topic:<br>Nomograph Method   |
| Instructor Notes:  | Instructor Outline:  |
| Transparency CD-4<br>Free CO <sub>2</sub> Nomograph, ruler | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe steps in using nomograph by using data as follows:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. align temperature, 25° C</li><li>b. total filtrable residue, 200 mg/l</li><li>c. determine P<sub>1</sub></li><li>d. align pH, 7.5</li><li>e. bicarbonate alkalinity, 200 mg/l</li><li>f. determine P<sub>2</sub></li><li>g. align P<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub></li><li>h. read CO<sub>2</sub>: 11.0 mg/l</li></ol></li><li>2. The same procedure should be used on their data from residue, pH, and alkalinity determinations.</li><li>3. Point out that the forms of alkalinity can also be determined by nomograph given, pH, temperature, total alkalinity, residue.</li></ol> |

Module No:

Module Title:  
Free Carbon Dioxide

Approx. Time:

0.25 hours

Submodule Title:

Topic:

Preparation of Standards and reagents

## Instructional Objective:

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Prepare a standard  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution for free  $\text{CO}_2$  determination.
2. Properly collect a water sample for  $\text{CO}_2$  analysis.

## Instructional Aids:

## Instructional Approach:

Laboratory practice

## References:

Standard Methods p. 298-300.

## Class Assignments:



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Module No:<br>CD   | Topic:<br>Preparation of standards and reagents   |
| Instructor Notes:  | Instructor Outline:   |
| <p>1. <math>\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3</math> solution:<br/>2.407 g dissolved in water to make 1 liter. Distilled water should be boiled. <math>\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3</math> should be dry.</p> | <p>1. 0.0454 N <math>\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3</math> preparation</p> <p>2. Collect sample in 500 ml Pyrex bottle - no trapped air. Syphon sample into graduated cylinder with overflow.</p> |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Module No:                 | Module Title:<br>Free Carbon Dioxide   |
| Approx. Time:<br>0.5 hours | Submodule Title:<br><br>Topic:<br>Titration and calculation of CO <sub>2</sub> |

**Instructional Objective:**

Upon completion of this module the participant should be able to:

1. Titrate the sample with standard base to a predetermined end point or inflection point.
2. Calculate the concentration of free CO<sub>2</sub> from titration data.
3. List precautions to be taken in CO<sub>2</sub> analysis.

**Instructional Aids:****Instructional Approach:**

Laboratory practice

**References:**

Standard Methods pp. 298-300.

**Class Assignments:**

Module No:  
CD

Topic:

Titration and calculation of  $\text{CO}_2$

Instructor Notes:

Instructor Outline:

1. Titration

- a. add 5 drops phenolphthalein
- b. if solution turns red - no  $\text{CO}_2$
- c. if colorless add  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution from a buret, stir with glass rod until pink color persists, record ml  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  used.
- d. repeat but run in entire ml  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  from c. above. If necessary add more titrant to end point.

2. Calculation:

- a. red immediately  $\text{CO}_2 = 0$
- b.  $\text{mg/l}(\text{CO}_2) = (\text{ml } \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3) \times (.0454) \times 22,000$   
ml sample

3. Precautions:

- a. glass-ware must be clean and free of acid or base residue
- b. titrate rapidly to prevent loss of  $\text{CO}_2$  to the atmosphere during titration

## Exam Questions

Free Carbon Dioxide  
Chemistry of Dissolved  $\text{CO}_2$ 

1. If carbon dioxide is dissolved in distilled water will the solution be acidic or basic?
2. Three forms of  $\text{CO}_2$  in water are free  $\text{CO}_2$ , bicarbonate, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At extremely high pH,  $\text{CO}_2$  is mostly in the \_\_\_\_\_ form.

## Safety

4. Chemicals splashed in the eye can be removed at the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ will prevent the spillage of chemicals on the hands.
6.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  will not "burn" when spilled on skin. True or False

Principles of  $\text{CO}_2$  Measurement

7. Two methods of determining free  $\text{CO}_2$  are the nomographic method and the \_\_\_\_\_ method.
8. The following data are needed for the nomographic method: pH, alkalinity, temperature, and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. At the end point of the titrimetric method, all the free  $\text{CO}_2$  will be converted to \_\_\_\_\_ ion.

## pH Measurement

10. The pH meter measures \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The pH meter is standardized with a \_\_\_\_\_ solution.
12. The pH of the solution is read on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the pH meter.

## Filtrable Residue

13. A 50 ml sample contains 1.2 grams of residue. Calculate the concentration of residue in mg per liter.
14. Does filtrable residue include dissolved salts?

## Nomograph Method

15. How many pivot lines are required for the determination of free  $\text{CO}_2$ ?
16. Besides free  $\text{CO}_2$ , what else can be determined from a nomograph, residue, temperature, total alkalinity, and pH?

## Preparation of Standards and Reagents

17. How should the water which is used for the preparation of titrant

be treated?

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18. Why should care be taken to exclude air from a sample taken for free  $\text{CO}_2$  analysis?

#### Titration and Calculation of $\text{CO}_2$

19. What is the color change in the  $\text{CO}_2$  titration?
20. If 5.0 ml of 0.0454 N  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  is required to titrate a 100 ml water sample, what is the concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the sample?
21. Briefly describe how  $\text{CO}_2$  is prevented from escaping or entering the water sample during collection or sampling.

## EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES LIST

1. Free CO<sub>2</sub> nomograph (or as transparency CD<sub>4</sub>)
2. thermometer
3. filter apparatus, filter flask, holder, glass fritted crucible
4. nickel crucible
5. oven
6. analytical balance
7. pH meter
8. pH 7 buffer
9. alkalinity test kit
10. sodium carbonate
11. distilled water
12. 2000 ml beaker
13. 1 liter volumetric flask
14. ringstand, ring, bunsen burner
15. 2 - 1 liter bottle
16. 100 ml graduated cylinder
17. rubber tubing
18. phenolphthalein indicator solution
19. 25 ml buret
20. glass stirring rod

## Free Carbon Dioxide

### Laboratory Procedure

#### I. Nomographic Method

- A. Obtain a "free  $\text{CO}_2$ " nomograph (transparency CD4 reproduced as a hand-out), a ruler and the following data for your sample.

1. temperature
2. total filtrable residue
3. pH
4. bicarbonate alkalinity

- B. Sample data

| data                    | 1        | 2       | 3        |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| temperature             | 25°C     | 25°C    | 12°C     |
| total filtrable residue | 700 mg/l | 0 mg/l  | 200 mg/l |
| pH                      | 8.5      | 7.0     | 6.0      |
| bicarbonate alkalinity  | 300 mg/l | 10 mg/l | 2 mg/l   |

- C. To use nomograph, (also: copies of the nomograph and nomographs for alkalinity may be obtained from The American Water Works Association, 666 West Quincy Ave, Denver, Colorado 80235.) Align temperature and total filtrable residue which determines  $P_1$  point on line. Align pH and bicarbonate alkalinity which determines  $P_2$  on line 2. Align  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  and read free  $\text{CO}_2$  on each line. Using this procedure find free  $\text{CO}_2$  for sample data 1, 2, 3, and for the sample provided by the student.

#### II. Titrimetric Method

- A. Prepare a standard sodium carbonate solution. Add 2.407g.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  to a 1 liter volumetric flask. Boil 1500 ml distilled water for 5 minutes; allow to cool. Fill the volumetric flask to the mark with this water. Label as: 0.0454 N sodium carbonate. Place in a bottle protected from atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$ .
- B. Collect a sample and analyze as soon as possible after collection by directing discharge into bottom of collection bottle. Protect from out-gassing or in-gassing. Syphon sample into 100 ml graduated cylinder allowing overflow. Flick sample to throw off sample above 100 ml mark.
- C. Add 5-10 drops phenolphthalein indicator. Add the  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution to a 25 ml buret. Record the initial buret reading. Dropwise, add  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  to the graduated cylinder with stirring until a pink color persists for 30 seconds. Record the buret reading. The difference in the two readings is the amount of titrant added.
- D. Calculate the free  $\text{CO}_2$  level by multiplying the ml  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  added by 9.988. Comment on collection, storage, or other irregularities.

Data Sheet for Free Carbon Dioxide

I. Nömographic Method  
Sample data

Free CO<sub>2</sub> 1 mg/l 2 mg/l 3 mg/l

Data from sample no. \_\_\_\_\_

temperature \_\_\_\_\_ °C

Filtrable residue \_\_\_\_\_ mg/l

pH \_\_\_\_\_

Bicarbonate alkalinity \_\_\_\_\_ mg/l

Calculated free CO<sub>2</sub> \_\_\_\_\_ mg/l

II. Titrimetric Method

Sample no. \_\_\_\_\_

initial buret reading \_\_\_\_\_ ml

final buret reading \_\_\_\_\_ ml

ml Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> added \_\_\_\_\_ ml (A)

Free CO<sub>2</sub> = 9.988 \* A = \_\_\_\_\_ mg/l

Comments:

Analyst \_\_\_\_\_

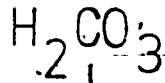
Date \_\_\_\_\_



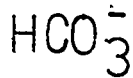
# TRANSPARENCY CD

Three forms of  $\text{CO}_2$  and pH

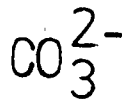
Carbonic acid (free  $\text{CO}_2$ ) - low pH, acid



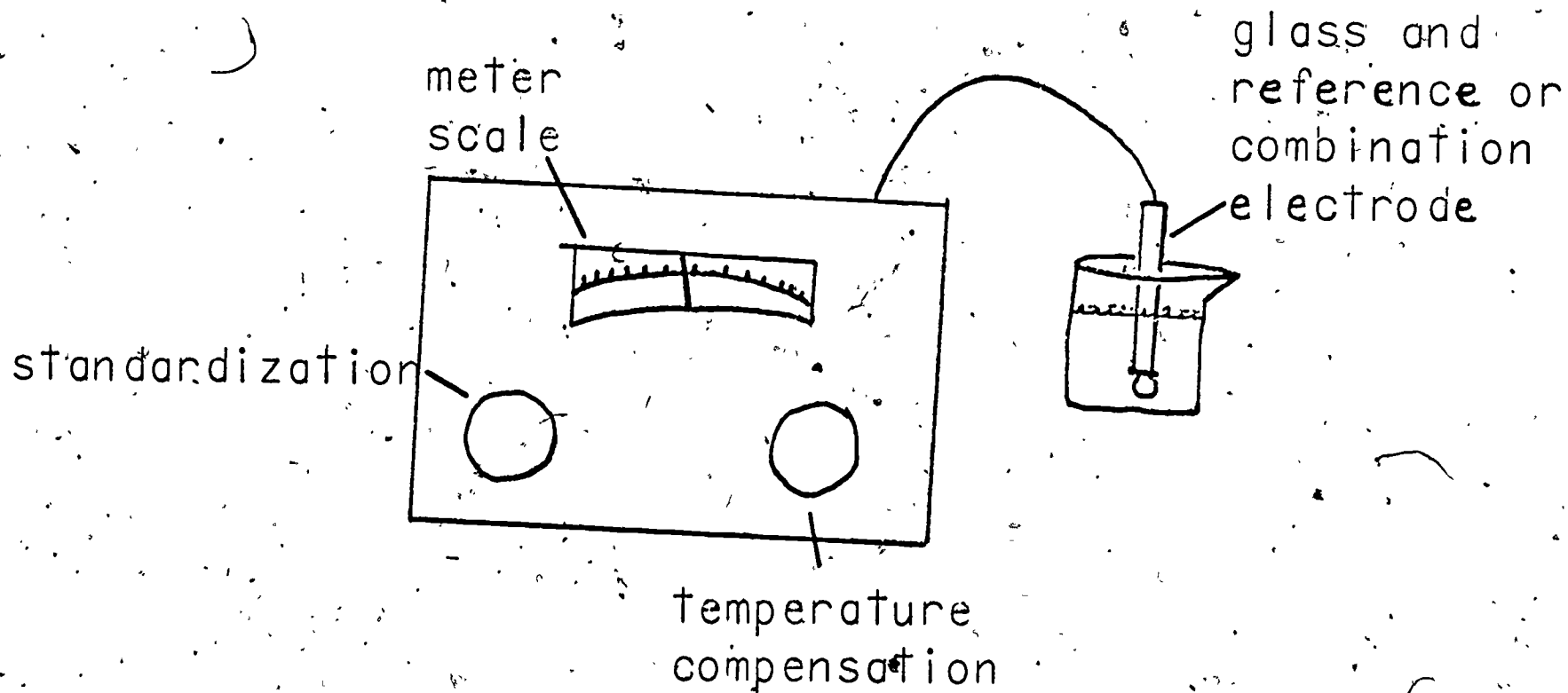
Bicarbonate - intermediate pH, neutral



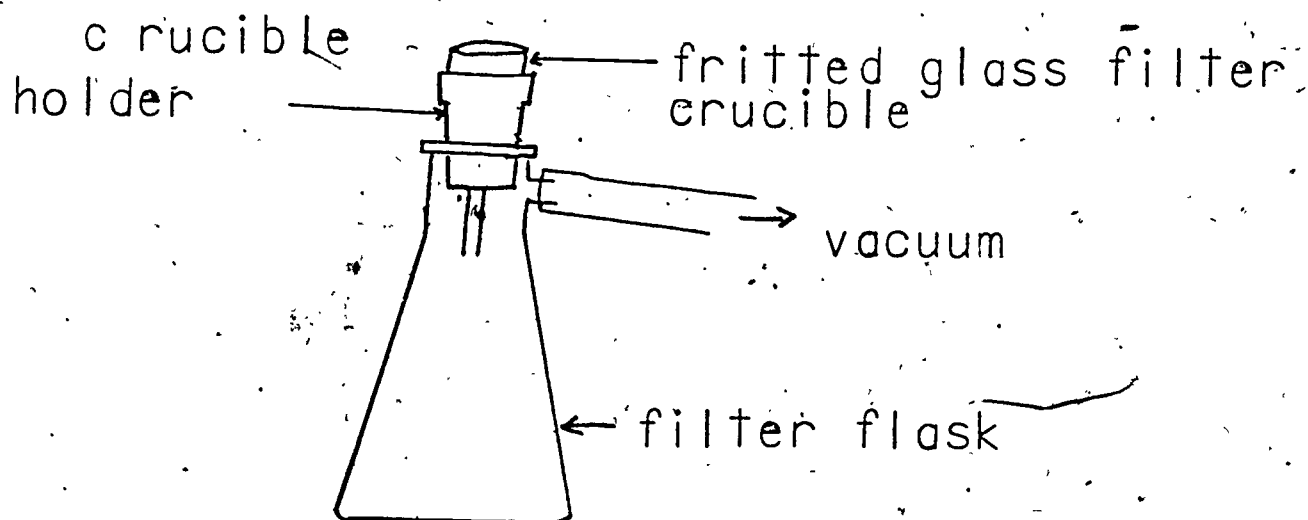
Carbonate - high pH, basic



TRANSPARENCY CD2  
Diagram of pH Meter



TRANSPARENCY CD3  
Filter Apparatus



# TRANSPARENCY CD4

## Free CO<sub>2</sub> Nomograph

